

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C.- Today, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that the City of Elizabeth will receive more than \$1.8 million through the Port Security Grant program. The funding will go toward the port region's heavy rescue unit as well as toward maritime support unit and equipment upgrades.

"The vitality of our port region is crucial to the safety of our district—and our entire region," said Congressman Sires. "This grant will give the city of Elizabeth some financial means to enhance the port's capabilities."

DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano announced Elizabeth's allocation as part of more than \$380 million in grants—funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)—to pay for fire station construction and port and transit security initiatives nationwide.

In awarding ARRA funds, DHS prioritizes shovel-ready projects that infuse resources into local economies quickly while meeting critical security needs. DHS has obligated more than 30 percent of its ARRA funds to date, and is on track to obligate more than 50 percent by the end of September 2009.

ARRA, signed into law by President Obama on February 19, committed more than \$3 billion for homeland security projects through DHS and the General Services Administration—including \$610 million to FEMA for grants to local communities across the country.

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